

The very idea that the NAB petition 04-160 exists is ludicrous. How can factual data be suppressed, or more to the point, be the sole domain of NAB members? Seems to me that reporting the weather or traffic is a RIGHT of anyone that has the urge to do it.

Additionally, the fact that it's EASIER to acquire such data via satellite radio is important to me. I travel frequently, and am able to use my radio to get the information I need quickly. No need to scan the local channels hoping to a) find a station that will have the information I need, and b) that I not have to wait until the 'top of the hour' or whatever.

If I decide to post my weather and traffic observations to an internet web page, am I infringing on the rights of others, or hurting their business? I am simply providing a service based on what I observe.

Lastly, if I am paying a company like XM for their services, am I not asserting my right to choose where I get my information? Sure, there are bits of weather and traffic information available wherever there is a radio station. But, the information is sparse, usually out of date, and generally read out so fast that if I miss a bit, I have to wait until the next update which could be anywhere from 10-60 minutes. With my XM service, I can choose to receive updates whenever I decide to, and I know that the information will be there when I want it, and it will be timely.

Let me guess, are local TV stations petitioning to have the Weather channel blocked too? I for one don't trust the local TV or radio weather forecasts. I use the National Weather Service broadcasts, the Weather Channel, and the XM stations. So what's the difference?

What's next? Is NAB going to petition the FCC to have XM shut down because they carry more content than a local radio stations? I for one use my AM/FM radio for a very short list of purposes:

1. Emergency/Alert announcements (as indicated by roadside signs)
2. My local morning show (these guys are funny)
3. Special local events.

However, if these things were available via satellite radio, I would gladly toss the old AM/FM in favor of better quality sound, more choice and variety of content, and the joyous lack of advertising that seems to be more prevalent on the local stations than actual content!!!!

Leave satellite radio alone. If NAB wants to compete, then compete through service and innovation like everyone else, not through litigation and legislation. If the FCC supports the NABs demands, it will be abundantly clear that the FCC is no supporter of free enterprise and freedom of the consumer to choose his/her own medium.